

DEDICATION TO RULAN CHAO PIAN



Rulan Chao Pian, taken in Ann Arbor, MI, 1987. *Photo courtesy of Theodore H. H. Pian*

Rulan Chao Pian, an eminent scholar of Chinese music, an influential Chinese language teacher, and a mentor to students and younger colleagues in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and North America, died peacefully on November 30, 2013 at the age of 91 in her Cambridge home.

In 1969, Rulan Chao Pian and several prominent Sinologists in North America, including her father Yuen Ren Chao, founded the Conference on Chinese Oral and Performing Literature (CHINOPERL), a scholarly organization devoted to the research, analysis, and interpretation of oral and performing traditions, broadly defined, and their relationship to China's culture and society. She was also a charter member of the Association for Chinese Music Research (ACMR), founded in 1986, a sister organization of CHINOPERL with which it shares many members and scholarly interests. Until shortly before she died, Pian served tirelessly as inspiration, guiding spirit, leader, and enthusiastic supporter of both organizations. This issue of *CHINOPERL: Journal of Chinese Oral and Performing Literature* is dedicated to her memory and in recognition of her many decades of service to this organization.

An obituary for Rulan Chao Pian and a selection of photos of her can be found on the CHINOPERL website: <https://chinoperl.osu.edu/>.